



FIG S3. Single-molecule force spectroscopy on living bacteria. (A) adhesion force histograms, rupture length histograms and adhesion force maps (500 nm x 500 nm, grey scale: 500 pN) obtained by recording force curves in TBS with 1 mM Zn²⁺ across the surface of 8 different *S. aureus* FnBPA⁽⁺⁾ cells using tips labelled with the FnBPA A domain. (B,C) Force data obtained with A domain-labelled tips for 2 different FnBPA⁽⁺⁾ cells in the presence of 1 mM EDTA (B), and with bare tips on 2 different FnBPA⁽⁺⁾ cells (C). (D) Force data obtained for 2 different *S. aureus* FnBPA⁽⁻⁾ cells with A domain-labelled tips. All curves were obtained using a contact time of 100 ms, a maximum applied force of 250 pN, and approach and retraction speeds of 1000 nm s⁻¹.